rescue and recovery work as and when required. Normally the mine managements make some ex-gratia payements to the next of kin immediately after the accident. In due course, statutory compensation is also paid throgh Compensation Commissioner and other legal dues are paid by the managements to the legal heirs.

(c) to (e). Only equipments which meet the provision of law are used in the mines. These equipments are required to be checked and tested regularly and maintained in functional order by the mine managements. The equipments are also checked by the officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety during their normal course of inspections.

Low Priority Consumer Goods

998 SHRI STAYADEO SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are preparing any list of low priority consumer items on which investment of multinational companies will be discouraged;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) The review of sector specific policy issues relating to foreign investment is a continuous process. In line with the overall policy of economic development, the decisions on permitting foreign investment or imposing restrictions on consumer items are taken as per the general foreign investment policy guidelines modified from time to time.

[English]

East-West Airlines

999 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to promote oldest and largest private Airlines East-West Airlines, a sick unit; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). It is for the private airlines, including East West Airlines, to take steps to overcome their financial and management problems.

Ration on Conessional Rate

1000. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the present policy of the Government in regard to provide essential commodities to poor people through Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the Government have decided to strengthen the Public Distribution System to provide maximum benefit to poor people;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are also considering a proposal to provide ration at further subsidised rates to the people living below the poverty line;

(e) if so, the details thereof including persons likely to be benefited thereby; and

(f) the time by which the above proposal is likely to be finalied?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The present policy of Government is to supply some Essential Commodities at a reduced price to all persons under the PDS. The Government has also been implementing Revamped PDS since 1992 under which 1775 blocks in the country are presently entitled to specially subsidised foodgrains at the rates equivalent to Rs.50 less than the normal Central Issue Price. The RPDS cover remote, far-flung, tribal and difficult areas where the poorer sections of the society live.

(b) to (f) The details of Government's proposal to strammline PDS with focus on the poor are being worked out.

A.I.R. Station

1001. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of All India Radio Station at Tezpur in Assam has been completed; and

(b) if so, the time by whch it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). A new radio station with 20 KW MW transmitter, Multi-purpose studio and staff quarters